

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 ITC-01 SS-15 L-03

NSC-05 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /101 W

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R 021306Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1681

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2403

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 07563

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,EEC

SUBJECT: EC CIGARETTE TAX HARMONIZATION

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1533, (B) EC A-64,(C) EC A-361 OF 12/21/72

THE COMMISSION HAS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE EC'S FIRST STAGE IN THE HARMONIZATION OF CIGARETTE EXCISE TAXES (NOW SCHEDULED TO END ON JUNE 30, 1977) TO DECEMBER 31, 1977. THIS PROPOSAL WAS PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL JOURNAL NO.C 168 OF JULY 22, 1976. THE FIRST STAGE OF HARMONIZATION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO END ON JUNE 30, 1975. HOWEVER,IT HAS BEEN EXTENDED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DUE TO THE COMMUNITY'S INABILITY TO AGREE ON THE RULES FOR THE SECOND STAGE OF HARMONIZATION. IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR,THE COMMISSION SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL FOR THE SECOND STAGE OF HARMONIZATION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINIMUM SPECIFIC COMPONENT OF 15 PERCENT IN MEMBER STATE CIGARETTE TAXES AND A MAXIMUM SPECIFIC COMPONENT OF 50 PERCENT (REF A AND B) THE SECOND STATE AS TO BEGIN JULY 1, 1977. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN NO ACTION ON THIS PROPOSAL. SINCE THE BASIC

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1972 COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON TOBACCO TAX HARMONIZATON (REF. C)

PROVIDES THAT THE RULES FOR THE SECOND STATE OF HARMONIZATION
MUST BE AGREED ON AT LEAST 1 YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE SECOND STAGE (OR IN THIS CASE,BY JUNE 30, 1976), THE
INACTIVITY OF THE COUNCIL FORCES THE COMMISSION TO SEEK A FURTHER
EXTENSION OF THE FIRST STATE.

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